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Agenda items 33 and 35

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 12 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the message of the President of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Leonid M. Kravchuk, to the participants of the international peace conference on the Middle East (see annex).

I request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33 and 35.

(Signed) Guennadi OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Message dated 29 October 1991 from the President of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the participants of the international peace conference on the Middle East

Please accept my sincere greetings in connection with the opening of the international peace conference on the Middle East at Madrid.

What the world community and all people who cherish peace and international security have persistently and regularly advocated over many years has come to pass. The convening of the conference has been made possible by virtue of the radical positive changes that have taken place in the world and reinforcement of the trend towards dealing with the acute problems of today by peaceful political means.

We highly appreciate the exceptionally important role of the States which initiated the conference and give due credit to the willingness of the parties to the conflict to avail themselves of this historic opportunity.

The role played by the United Nations in mobilizing the efforts of the international community to resolve the long-standing and explosive Middle East conflict is universally recognized. A contribution to those collective efforts has also been made by Ukraine, which for many years has taken an active part in the work of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

While addressing you, the participants in the conference, I should like to emphasize your great responsibility towards the peoples of the Middle East region and of the whole world. The prospects for peace in the Middle East today are in your hands. Thus, on behalf of the Supreme Soviet and people of Ukraine, I call on you to show tenacity and persistence in seeking the balance of interests that is essential for a solution of the Middle East problem. We wish you success and believe that statesmanship and good will can bring lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the principles of justice and taking full account of the legitimate rights and interests of all the peoples and countries of the region.